HUNSLET

Rural District Council

REPORT

OF

JOSEPH BUCK, ESQ.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

—1897.—

ROTHWELL:—

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Annual Report, 1897.

HUNSLET RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report for 1897. Appended are the Local Government Board Tables A and B, and the County Council Table C, a careful perusal of which, along with the text, will facilitate reference.

BIRTHS.

There have been registered in the district 201 births—115 males and 86 females, or seven more than in 1896; the sub-registration district of Whitkirk (including Templenewsam (part of) Oulton-c-Woodlesford, and Thorpe Stapleton) contributing 157, and Middleton 44. The estimated population to the middle of 1897 is 6770, and this gives a birth-rate of 29.68 per thousand, that of 1896 being 29.14, of these births 7 were illegitimate—all males. The mean birth-rate for the decade 1880–1889 was 33.8.

DEATHS.

During the corresponding period there were 78 deaths registered—43 males and 35 females. Of these Templenewsam contributed 25, Oulton-c-Woodlesford 35, and Middleton 18. The death-rate, therefore, is 11.52 per thousand, that of 1896 being 15, and the mean of the decade 1880–1889 being 18. This is a remarkably low death-rate, in fact, the lowest to my knowledge in this district, and the Council is to be congratulated on such satisfactory statistics.

The following grouping is a summary of the ages at which death occurred :—

Deaths under 1 year	18	33 under 5 years.
Deaths over 1 „ and under 5 years	15	
Deaths „ 5 „ „ „ 15 „	7	45 above 5 years.
Deaths „ 15 „ „ „ 25 „	2	
Deaths „ 25 „ „ „ 65 „	18	
Deaths „ 65 „ „ upwards	18	

Two deaths in persons not belonging to the district are included in the above returns—one, a miner, residing in Hunslet, killed at Broom Pit ; the other a newly-born child found in the river at Fleet Mills (probably).

Two deaths in persons belonging to the district, aged respectively 60, occurred in the Hunslet Workhouse.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The following are taken from Table A. :—

Typhoid fever	1
Whooping Cough	2
Diarrhœa	4
Phthisis	3
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Pleurisy	15
Heart Disease	5
Injuries	5
All other causes... ...	43
Total ...	78

INFANT MORTALITY.

There were registered 18 deaths in children under 1 year, being at the rate of 23 per cent of the total number of deaths, and 8.9 per cent of the births registered.

The causes of death were :—Marasmus, Congenital debility and premature birth, 5 ; Congenital heart weakness, 1 ; Convulsions, 6 ; Hydrocephalus, 1 ; Broncho-pneumonia, 1 ; Whooping cough, 1 ; Accidentally suffocated, 1 ; Tabes mesenterica, 1 ; Diarrhœa, 1 The INFANT DEATH RATE (8.9 per 100 of the births registered) is greatly reduced, that of 1896 being 15.9 and the mean for the decade 1880–1889 being 13.1. The absence of any epidemic during the year is responsible for this highly satisfactory rate.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

There were only 3 deaths from Zymotic causes : Typhoid fever, 1 ; and Whooping cough, 2 ; the case of Typhoid fever occurring in Templenewsam, and the 2 cases of Whooping cough in Oulton-c-Woodlesford.

The death rate from Zymotic diseases is .44 per 1000,

that of 1896 being 1.9 and the mean for the ten years 1880–1889, 2.3. This is the lowest Zymotic death rate in this district, to my knowledge, for the preceding 20 years, the nearest being .7 in 1881.

The number of Infectious Cases notified to me during the year was 34. Of these Templenewsam contributed 16—Scarlatina 10, Typhoid 3, Erysipelas 3; Oulton-c-Woodlesford 10—Scarlatina 3, Diphtheria 1, Typhoid 2, Erysipelas 4; Middleton 8—Scarlatina 7, Erysipelas 1.

SCARLATINA.

It is satisfactory to record that there were no deaths from this disease. Of the 10 cases in Templenewsam 5 occurred in one house, and 3 in another, and at different seasons of the year—1 in January, 1 in April, 5 in June, and 3 in October. One of the cases in Oulton-c-Woodlesford was probably imported. Of the 7 cases in Middleton, 4 occurred in one house at New Hall, 2 in another at Mount Pleasant, and 1 at New Lane; the 3 houses are at some distance apart. This disease has been prevalent in Hunslet, and many children from Middleton attend school in this district.

TYPHOID FEVER.

5 cases were notified, 3 in Templenewsam, 2 in Oulton-c-Woodlesford. Of the 3 in Templenewsam, two were imported, one working as a dress-maker in Leeds, the other returning ill from Blackpool; the third case, a confirmed invalid, died. The Sanitary arrangements were satisfactory. Of the 2 cases in Oulton-c-Woodlesford, one was undoubtedly traceable to the insanitary state of the house, the drainage being very faulty, (the entire drainage has since been overhauled and put into a thorough sanitary condition); the other was of a sporadic nature, no cause being traceable.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.

The district has been almost free from Measles, and only 2 deaths are registered from Whooping cough, 1 in Oulton and 1 in Woodlesford.

ERYSIPELAS.

There were 8 cases of Erysipelas notified, 3 in Templenewsam, 4 in Oulton-c-Woodlesford, and 1 in Middleton. Most of the cases were of traumatic origin and of a trivial nature. No deaths occurred from this cause.

DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

One case of diphtheria in Oulton-c-Woodlesford was notified, and was due no doubt to the unwholesome surroundings. There were no deaths registered.

DIARRHŒA.

This disease was prevalent during the summer months, 4 deaths being registered from this cause, 2 in children under 2 years of age, and 2 in persons over 60.

INQUESTS.

Seven inquests were held, 5 deaths being due to injuries and drowning, and 2 to natural causes.

HOSPITAL FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

This question, which has been before the Council for years, has again been brought forward. I can only repeat my former observations and advice, as in previous reports, that it would be much more efficient and at the same time, economical, to combine with some neighbouring council or councils in the formation of a conjoint hospital district, than to erect a new hospital with all its administrative expenses in such a small district. The remarks apply to the small-pox hospital at Waterloo. With regard to this latter place, a more abundant supply of water has been provided by the erection of a larger storage cistern, and the surroundings have been somewhat improved, though I am still of opinion that this place should only be looked upon as a temporary resort, to be used in case of emergency, until arrangements can be made for better accommodation and more wholesome surroundings.

WATER SUPPLY.

The precarious supply of water in the past to Middleton, by the Wakefield Rural District Council is at present the subject of litigation. At the time of writing the supply is more plentiful and regular.

It has been resolved to extend the water mains to Thorpe Stapleton and Newsam Green, a district in which the water supply has been condemned for some time, and steps are being taken for the completion of the work.

Five cottages, known as West View, in Middleton, are without an adequate supply of water. This question is at present under consideration.

The whole of the district, with the exception of a few isolated houses is now in a fair way to be provided with an abundant and wholesome supply, and the importance of this fact cannot be over-estimated in a rural district, in face of the evils which may result from water, the source and quality of which are not above suspicion.

SEWERAGE AND SANITARY WORK.

A most important work has been decided upon, in the adoption of a scheme for the drainage of Middleton (including Belle Isle). Plans, drawn up by a competent engineer, have been passed, and there is every possibility of an early commencement of the work, and of this long-standing question being brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

The new sewage works at Halton have been completed, and are now in working order. It is highly necessary for the success of these works that they should have every attention and careful supervision, otherwise in a short time they will go the way of all other systems, which are not efficiently managed.

80 nuisances have been reported during the year, with 17 standing over from 1896 ; of these 84 have been abated. There have been no prosecutions.

30 new houses have been built and more are in course of construction, this will considerably modify the overcrowding which has for some time existed in certain parts of the district.

I attended, as a delegate, the Conference of the Sanitary Institute, held in Leeds.

In conclusion, I beg to congratulate the Council, on the satisfactory nature of the report which I have been able to put before them, and again thank the Chairman and members for their courtesy and consideration.

JOSEPH BUCK,

Medical Officer of Health.

Rothwell, near Leeds.

January, 1898.

APPENDIX A.

TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1897, in the Hunslet Rural District, Classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.

MEMORANDUM.—The deaths which have to be classified in this Table, and summed up in the horizontal line of 'Totals,' are the whole of those registered as having actually occurred in the several localities comprised within the Division or District. But the registered number of deaths frequently requires correction before it can give an exact view of the mortality of a Division or District; and the two lowest horizontal lines are provided for the purpose of enabling Medical Officers of Health to indicate, to the best of their ability, what the extent of such corrections should be.

Names of Localities. (Public Institutions being shown as separate Localities.)	Mortality from all causes at subjoined ages.							Mortality from Subjoined Causes, Distinguishing Deaths of Children under 5 Years of Age.									
	At All Ages	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards		Enteric or Typhoid	Whooping Cough	Diarrhœa and Dysentery	Phthisis	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy	Heart Disease	Injuries	All other Diseases	Totals
Templenewsam (part of) & Thorp Stapleton	25	3	6	3	2	5	6	Under 5...					3	1		5	9
								5 upwards	1		1	1	4	2		7	16
Oulton-with-Woodlesford.	35	11	3	4	0	9	8	Under 5...		2	1		2		1	8	14
								5 upwards				2	5	1	3	10	21
Middleton	18	4	6	0	0	4	4	Under 5..			1		1			8	10
								5 upwards			1			1	1	5	8
Totals.	78	18	15	7	2	18	18	Under 5...		2	2		6	1	1	21	33
								5 upwards	1		2	3	9	4	4	22	45

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

	Mortality from all Causes at Subjoined Ages.				Mortality from Subjoined Cases.			
	Under 1 Year	5 and under 15	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	Bronchitis Pneumonia and Pleurisy	Injuries	All other Diseases	Total
Deaths occurring outside the District among Persons belonging thereto			2				2	2
Deaths occurring within the District among Persons not belonging thereto	1		1			1	1	2

Area and Population of the District or Division to which this Return relates:

Area in Acres, 6,583,

Estimated Population (1897) 6,770.

APPENDIX B.

Table of POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the Year 1897, in the Hunslet Rural District; classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	Population at all Ages.		Registered Births	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.					Number of such cases removed from their homes in the several localities for treatment in Isolation Hospital.
	Last Census, 1891	Estimated to middle of 1897.			Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Enteric or Typhoid	Erysipelas	Smallpox
TEMPLENEWSAM and THORP STAPLETON	2108	6770	157	Under 5...	1				
				5 upwards	9		3	3	
OULTON-with-WOODLESFORD	2776			Under 5...	1			2	
				5 upwards	2	1	2	2	
MIDDLETON	1236		44	Under 5...	2				
				5 upwards	5			1	
TOTALS	6120	6770	201	Under 5...	4			2	
				5 upwards	16	1	5	6	

Is "Notification of Infectious Disease" compulsory in the District? *Yes.* Since when? *1st January, 1890.* Name of Isolation Hospital used by the Sick of the District. *School House at Waterloo, just outside Hunslet boundary, situated in Rothwell, for Small Pox cases only.*

APPENDIX C.

Annual Return to West Riding County Council.

Hunslet Rural Sanitary District.

Medical Officer of Health, JOSEPH BUCK.

Sanitary Inspector, WILLIAM WHITEHEAD.

Water Supply—

No of Houses having constant Public Supply—1120. Obtained from—940 from Leeds, 180 from Wakefield Rural, now Ardsley. Any inadequacy in any part —Formerly irregular in Middleton, now regular. Quality—Good. Action on lead—None (at present.) Any extensions or change during 1897—No.

Sewerage—

Extensions or improvements during 1897—96 yards 3 inch mains.

Sewage Disposal—

Treatment now in operation (or proposed)—Oulton-c-Woodlesford by Rothwell District Council; Halton (Templenewsam) Settling Tanks and Filter Beds and Land; Middleton—by Cesspools.

Adoptive Acts— *Date of Adoption*

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890, } Not
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, } Adopted

Bye-Laws and Regulations in Force –

SUBJECT	Date of Adoption	Inspection	General Condition
Scavenging ...	1890	regularly	Fairly satisfactory
Nuisances ...		,,	,,
Common Lodging Houses	Dec, 1882		
New Streets and buildings	Dec, 1882		Some approved, none finished—Streets
Dairies... ..		casually	Satisfactory in cleanliness
Cowsheds ...	Sept. 1887	,,	Some old buildings defective in ventilation, light, and capacity
Milkshops ...		,,	
Slaughter Houses ..		regularly	Not registered
Canal Boats ...		regularly	
Vans and Tents ...			Permanent show van occasionally
Periodic removal of Manure			Required to be removed, while in small quantities

Schemes before L.G.B. }
L.G.B. Inquiries ... } None.
L.G.B. Inspections ... }

Special Reports by M.O.H. during 1897—None.

Isolation Hospital—

Any action during 1897?—Larger water cistern supplied to Smallpox Hospital.

Miscellaneous--

Number of houses built during 1897—30. General character—Through, terrace.

Is house-to-house inspection systematically made ?—Irregularly.

Total number of nuisances in hand at close of 1896—17. At close of 1897—13. Reported during 1897—80. Abated during 1897—84.

Total number of summonses or other legal proceedings—None.

No. of sink wastes disconnected during 1897—2. Number trapped—30 new houses, 2 older ; 32 total.

No. of closets constructed during 1897—22. Kinds—Water closets.

What action has been taken in regard to the following matters ?—

Houses unfit for habitation—None.

Overcrowding—None.

Seizure of unsound food—None. Prosecutions- None.

Samples under Sale of Food and Drugs Acts—None. Prosecutions - None.

River pollution—

Smoke abatement—None. No. of observations taken—39.

Schools—No. in district - 5. No. closed on account of outbreaks of disease—None.

Burial Grounds—No. in district—3 in use, 1 closed. Any need for extension—

Vaccination—General efficiency—Fairly efficient, about 94 per cent. vaccinated or accounted for.

Births—

Males 115, Females 86 ; total 201.

Number illegitimate, included in the above—7 males.

Any information as to Still Births--None returned to Registrar.

Deaths—

Males 43, Females 35 ; Total 78.

Number uncertified, included in the above—None.

Rateable Value (as stated in Valuation List)—

£36,312 (£28,328 for Sanitary Rate).

Sanitary Requirements of District, and Suggestions of Medical Officer of Health—

Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Supply of water to West View, Middleton.